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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/756,642	01/03/2001	Paul J. Rank	0007056-0055	7532

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EXAMINER	
HILLERY, NATHAN	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2176	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/756,642	RANK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nathan Hillery	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *21 August 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *60-79* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *60-66,68-76,78 and 79* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *67 and 77* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: RCE filed on 8/21/07.

2. Claims 60 – 79 are pending in the case. Claims 60 and 70 are independent.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/23/07 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 60 – 66, 68 – 76, 78 and 79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richards (US 6292810 B1) and in further view of Horie et al. (US 6487597 B1).

6. **Regarding independent claim 60**, Richards teaches that a series of decision blocks are used to test the delete option index in combination with the from-cell address compared to the outer edge of the sheet minus the offset of the cells (Column 82, lines 10 – 12), which meet the limitation of **determining whether cell data location**

information for a selected spreadsheet file cell is contained in a first grid record of a plurality of grid records.

Richards teaches that in decision block 2879 the index of one indicates that cells are being moved left for the selected range (Column 82, lines 12 and 13), which meet the limitation of **if the cell data location information is contained in the first grid record, determining the cell data location information from the first grid record**;

Richards teaches that the row value set by the row loop of decision block 2883 is compared with the first and last row selected, R1 and R2, and the column as set by the column loop of decision block 2855 is compared to the last column minus the column offset (Column 82, lines 13 – 17), which meet the limitation of **determining the location of cell data corresponding to the spreadsheet file cell in a cell data record based on the cell data location information**;

Richards teaches that if the cell is located within this combined range, then the cell is cleared and all of the cell contents and controls are deleted (Column 82, lines 17 – 19), which meet the limitation of **extracting the cell data from the cell data record**.

Richards does not explicitly teach **the first grid record storing a mapping between a plurality of spreadsheet file cells and the location of their corresponding cell data in a cell data record implemented in the record-based computer readable-medium.**

Horie et al. teach that FIG. 10 is a flow chart of the spreadsheet-processing program that provides the step for determining the file size and the step for executing the file-dividing program. That is, the program of the flowchart of FIG. 10 sequentially

executes the steps for storing in the transfer data area the data copied to the clipboard (spreadsheet data), registering the first n characters of the data as a file name, sending a data transmission initiate signal to the PDA, and transmitting the spreadsheet data (Column 9, lines 10 – 24), which meet the limitation of **each grid record storing a mapping between a plurality of spreadsheet file cells and the location of their corresponding cell data location information in a cell data record implemented in the record-based computer readable-medium**. This limitation is further illustrated via Figs 19 and 21. Fig 19 is a selection of a spreadsheet file on a PC that is transferred to a PDA. Fig 21 is the display of the transferred selection of the spreadsheet file of Fig 19 on the PDA.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the invention of Richards with that of Horie et al. because such a combination would provide the users of Richards with the benefit of a way to transmit only a desired portion of data in an information transmission apparatus (personal computer or the like) in a simple operation to a personal digital assistant (Column 2, lines 24 – 26).

7. **Regarding dependent claim 61**, Richards teaches that some of the cells processed will not be cleared, i.e., cells not on the outer edge. Therefore, a series of decision blocks are used (Column 82, lines 7 – 10), which meet the limitation of **if the cell data location information is not contained in the first grid record, determining**

whether the cell data location information is contained in a second grid record, since "the outer edge" is equivalent to **a second grid record**

8. **Regarding dependent claim 62**, Richards teaches that cell attribute is any property, quality, or characteristic that can be ascribed to a cell (Column 19, lines 14 and 15), which meet the limitation of **determining from a property record property information of the spreadsheet file**.

9. **Regarding dependent claim 63**, Richards teaches that if the delete option index is equal to two, then the column as set by the column loop of decision block 2855 is compared to the first and last column of the selected range. If the cell is located within this combined range, then the cell is cleared and all of the cell contents and controls are deleted in process block (Column 82, lines 21 – 28), which meet the limitation of **determining whether cell data location information for a selected spreadsheet file cell is contained in a first grid record includes comparing a column number of the spreadsheet file cell to a column value range of the first grid record**.

10. **Regarding dependent claim 64**, Richards teaches that if the delete option index is equal to two, then the column as set by the column loop of decision block 2855 is compared to the first and last column of the selected range. If the cell is located within this combined range, then the cell is cleared and all of the cell contents and controls are deleted in process block (Column 82, lines 21 – 28), which meet the limitation of

determining whether cell data location information for a selected spreadsheet file cell is contained in a first grid record includes comparing a column number of the spreadsheet file cell to a column value range of the second grid record.

11. **Regarding dependent claim 65**, Richards teaches that a series of decision blocks are used to test the delete option index in combination with the from-cell address compared to the outer edge of the sheet minus the offset of the cells (Column 82, lines 10 – 12), which meet the limitation of **the cell data location information indicates the location of cell data in the cell data record**, since **cell data location information** is equivalent to "the delete option index in combination with the from-cell address".

12. **Regarding dependent claims 66 and 67**, Richards does not explicitly teach **the cell data location information is a 16 bit matrix.**

Horie et al. teach that storing in the transfer data area the data copied to the clipboard (spreadsheet data), registering the first n characters of the data (for example, n=20) as a file name, sending a data transmission initiate signal to the PDA, transmitting the spreadsheet data (Column 9, lines 16 – 20), which meet the limitation of **the cell data location information is a 16 bit matrix**, since a matrix is an array of rows and columns and Horie et al. further teach that FIG. 20B an example of a list of spreadsheets "after data transfer", in which a character string (for "maker") within the head cell (column A, row 1) in the selected range in FIG. 19 is additionally displayed as

a title (Column 11, lines 20 – 24). Horie et al. discloses using "n" characters, which the skilled artisan would have been well aware could therefore be 16 bits.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the invention of Richards with that of Horie et al. because such a combination would provide the users of Richards with the benefit of a way to transmit only a desired portion of data in an information transmission apparatus (personal computer or the like) in a simple operation to a personal digital assistant (Column 2, lines 24 – 26).

13. **Regarding dependent claim 68**, Richards teaches that the delete option index is evaluated. In each case, the operation of FIG. 28G will be executed, however, the parameters passed to that operation will vary depending upon the user's selection as indicated by the delete option index. When the index is equal to a value of one in decision block 2863, the execution block 2865 passes a zero value for the row offset and the negative value of the column offset to the operation (Column 81, lines 40 – 47), which meet the limitation of **the cell data location information indicates a value of zero if the spreadsheet file cell is empty**.

14. **Regarding dependent claim 69**, Richards does not explicitly teach **the data processing apparatus is a personal digital assistant**.

Horie et al. teach that storing in the transfer data area the data copied to the clipboard (spreadsheet data), registering the first n characters of the data (for example,

n=20) as a file name, sending a data transmission initiate signal to the PDA, transmitting the spreadsheet data (Column 9, lines 16 – 20), which meet the limitation of **the data processing apparatus is a personal digital assistant**.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the invention of Richards with that of Horie et al. because such a combination would provide the users of Richards with the benefit of a way to transmit only a desired portion of data in an information transmission apparatus (personal computer or the like) in a simple operation to a personal digital assistant (Column 2, lines 24 – 26).

15. **Regarding claims 70 – 76, 78 and 79**, the claims incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claims 60 – 66, 68 and 69, and are rejected along the same rationale.

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments filed 7/23/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

17. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

18. Specifically, applicant argues that neither Richards nor Horie teach or disclose **determining whether cell data location information for a selected spreadsheet file cell is contained in a first grid record of a plurality of grid records, each grid record storing a mapping between a plurality of spreadsheet file cells and the location of their corresponding cell data location information in a cell data record implemented in the record-based computer readable-medium** (p 7).

The Office disagrees.

First, the Office does maintain that Richards does not explicitly teach **the first grid record storing a mapping between a plurality of spreadsheet file cells and the location of their corresponding cell data in a cell data record implemented in the record-based computer readable-medium**.

However, Richards teaches that a series of decision blocks are used to test the delete option index in combination with the from-cell address compared to the outer edge of the sheet minus the offset of the cells (Column 82, lines 10 – 12), which meet the limitation of **determining whether cell data location information for a selected spreadsheet file cell is contained in a first grid record of a plurality of grid records**, since cell data location information is equivalent to "the delete option index in combination with the from-cell address" and "the outer edge of the sheet minus the offset of the cells" is equivalent to a first grid record of a plurality of grid records.

Furthermore, Horie et al. teach that FIG. 10 is a flow chart of the spreadsheet-processing program that provides the step for determining the file size and the step for executing the file-dividing program. That is, the program of the flowchart of FIG. 10

sequentially executes the steps for storing in the transfer data area the data copied to the clipboard (spreadsheet data), registering the first n characters of the data as a file name, sending a data transmission initiate signal to the PDA, and transmitting the spreadsheet data (Column 9, lines 10 – 24), which meet the limitation of **each grid record storing a mapping between a plurality of spreadsheet file cells and the location of their corresponding cell data location information in a cell data record implemented in the record-based computer readable-medium**. This limitation is further illustrated via Figs 19 and 21. Fig 19 is a selection of a spreadsheet file on a PC that is transferred to a PDA. Fig 21 is the display of the transferred selection of the spreadsheet file of Fig 19 on the PDA.

Obviously, in order to perform the copy/paste operation of Horie et al., the skilled artisan is well aware of the implementation of storing the mapping outlined in the claim so that the skilled artisan may provide that the user of the PDA receives the same data within the same context as that stored on a PC as illustrated in Figs 19 and 21 of Horie.

Thus, the combination of the references, Richards and Horie meet the limitation of **determining whether cell data location information for a selected spreadsheet file cell is contained in a first grid record of a plurality of grid records, each grid record storing a mapping between a plurality of spreadsheet file cells and the location of their corresponding cell data location information in a cell data record implemented in the record-based computer readable-medium**.

Allowable Subject Matter

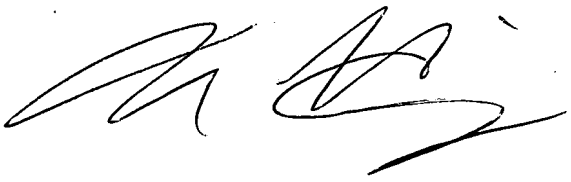
19. Claims 67 and 77 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan Hillery whose telephone number is (571) 272-4091. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F, 10:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached on (571) 272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



NH

Nathan Hillery
Examiner
Art Unit 2176